

BASEBALL DAMAGE SUITS.

PITCHER TAYLOR MAY BRING THEM AGAINST HIS ACCUSERS.

Exonerated of the Pittsburgh Charges of Crookedness, He Will Insist Upon Having Charge Investigated—John M. Ward Heats the Player's Side.

Jack Taylor, the pitcher of the St. Louis National League Baseball Club, was acquitted yesterday of the charge of dishonesty. On the charge of misbehavior, Taylor was found guilty and punishment was meted out to him for that offence by the Board of Directors of the National League. The sum of \$100 was imposed upon the board of directors. The National League will have to provide the sum of \$100 as the American League has no money to spend in such a case.

With a combination of this kind what is to become of the smaller clubs in the Eastern League? The American Association is underdogs who will not be in sympathy with a scheme to down the American League.

Taylor's side of the story is that the National League will be charged upon a well-known baseball sharp, who said:

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Before the present controversy over Taylor is at an end several heavy damage suits will probably be brought in behalf of Major Taylor by his attorney, John M. Ward, against the persons who have been instrumental in circulating the charges of crookedness.

Taylor retained Ward late Tuesday night, after he had appeared before the board of directors at the Victoria Hotel during the afternoon. The player told his attorney the following story of the proceedings:

"I went before the board, in response

to a letter of notification received from President H. C. Pulliam. I was immediately informed by Harry Herrmann, who held the proxy of Barney Dreyfuss, that there were no formal charges against me, but that if I was willing the whole case would be dropped. I told Herrmann that in view of the many stories in the papers to the effect that I was most dishonest baseball in Pittsburgh on July 20, and also in Chicago in the fall of 1903, I wished to have the matter thoroughly investigated then and there; that I was ready to tell nothing but the truth in answer to any questions and that I wished to be exonerated in the absence of guilt. Captain Gandy thinks that he is a good candidate for the presidency of the American League, and I think that he is a good candidate for a first man in the college of pharmacy. Another good player is Basman, from Newburgh. Basman is a freshman in the college of pharmacy, and will probably play first base on the '05 nine."

BASEBALL AT COLUMBIA.

Cage Practice for Season Starts Under Bill Lander.

With an exceptionally large number of good candidates, baseball practice at Columbia was started yesterday in the cage in the gymnasium. Captain Gandy, coach of the Columbia team, was on hand to coach the novices and some of the older men, and put in a hard-weather's work.

On the whole, he was disposed to be satisfied with the candidates, although naturally little could be said by the first day's work. Collins, Noshew, Sanders and Captain Gandy were the ones chosen to receive the most part of the candidates are freshmen. Captain Gandy thinks that he is a good candidate for the presidency of the American League, and I think that he is a good candidate for a first man in the college of pharmacy.

It was then that the board of directors began to frame up a committee to meet the ball the night before the game of July 20, to see if they could not influence

of Major Taylor and told several friends not to bet on me when I pitched for St. Louis against Pittsburgh the next day. I had no lawyer when I appeared before the board of directors, and when I asked to see the signatures on the affidavits one of the lawyers declared that he could not disclose them because he had agreed to keep them secret. In order to secure a promise good to the last, I tore the signatures from six affidavits in my presence.

"There was not the slightest evidence to show that I had acted in collusion with gamblers, and the only point made was that I had met a man named Dick McCormick, who is said to be on the ball games in Pittsburgh about five years ago. An affidavit signed by him was given to the board of directors, to the effect that in his opinion I had done my best was never introduced at all. But affidavits from every member of the St. Louis club, except Beckley, were read, showing that I had played the best ball in my power. Grady, who caught me, swore that he gave a signal for each ball that I pitched and that I never once struck my bat. That was the last time that I pitched well enough to win with any kind of hitting behind me. I answered all questions and was told that the decision would be reversed.

"About two weeks ago I received a contract for the coming season from the St. Louis club. It called for a salary of \$600 less than I got last year. I sent it back to Mr. Robison but he was a lawyer in St. Louis. I had it returned to me three days before I left that city to attend this meeting. Mr. Robison knew of the charges that had been brought against me when I signed the contract, yet he was willing to have me play ball for him just the same. I lost my job with the transportation and became a several hundred dollars in travelling expenses. In regard to the charges made by Hart, I want to say that Manager Seelye of the Chicago National League had almost no idea how to pitch the last game of the post-season series in Chicago in 1903, after I had told him. I have three affidavits in this case to prove to policemen who state that they heard me say I got paid for losing the game, and that he was the cause of the loss. I am sure the inability of the Nationals to beat the Americans in that series, I want to have that case set aside.

"Ward, after a long conference with Taylor early yesterday morning, proceeded to the Victoria Hotel, where the directors were gathered to go into session prior to reaching a verdict. When Ward knocked on the door of the star chamber he appeared and asked what was wanted.

"I have been retained by Taylor," said Ward, "and I have the chance to have him freed from ever being evidence. He should have been represented by counsel here yesterday and has rights which must be respected." Ward was asked what he thought about it, and the door was closed. The directors were quickly thrown into a panic when they realized that the trial had been adjourned.

The proceedings. Ward then made the situation even more interesting by sending a formal notice to the directors that as long as time than it takes to tell it the directors reached a decision, exonerating the player in half an hour, or two hours, or even longer, he would bring his suit for misdealing which had admitted himself. Ward held another court with Taylor, and said that he had been promised a trial from present indications an appeal will be taken to the national commission.

"I want to have the case taken up at the commission, and I want the commission take up the Hart charges against Taylor at once." He says that the members of the commission, Herman Pulliam and Frank J. Marshall, were too busy to take the case, and that Taylor's case must receive due consideration without further delay.

Leanne arrived here last night and will make another effort to have the case taken up. Furthermore, the American League will be in open meeting. Ward will ask that Hart take the stand for a rigid cross examination.

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